

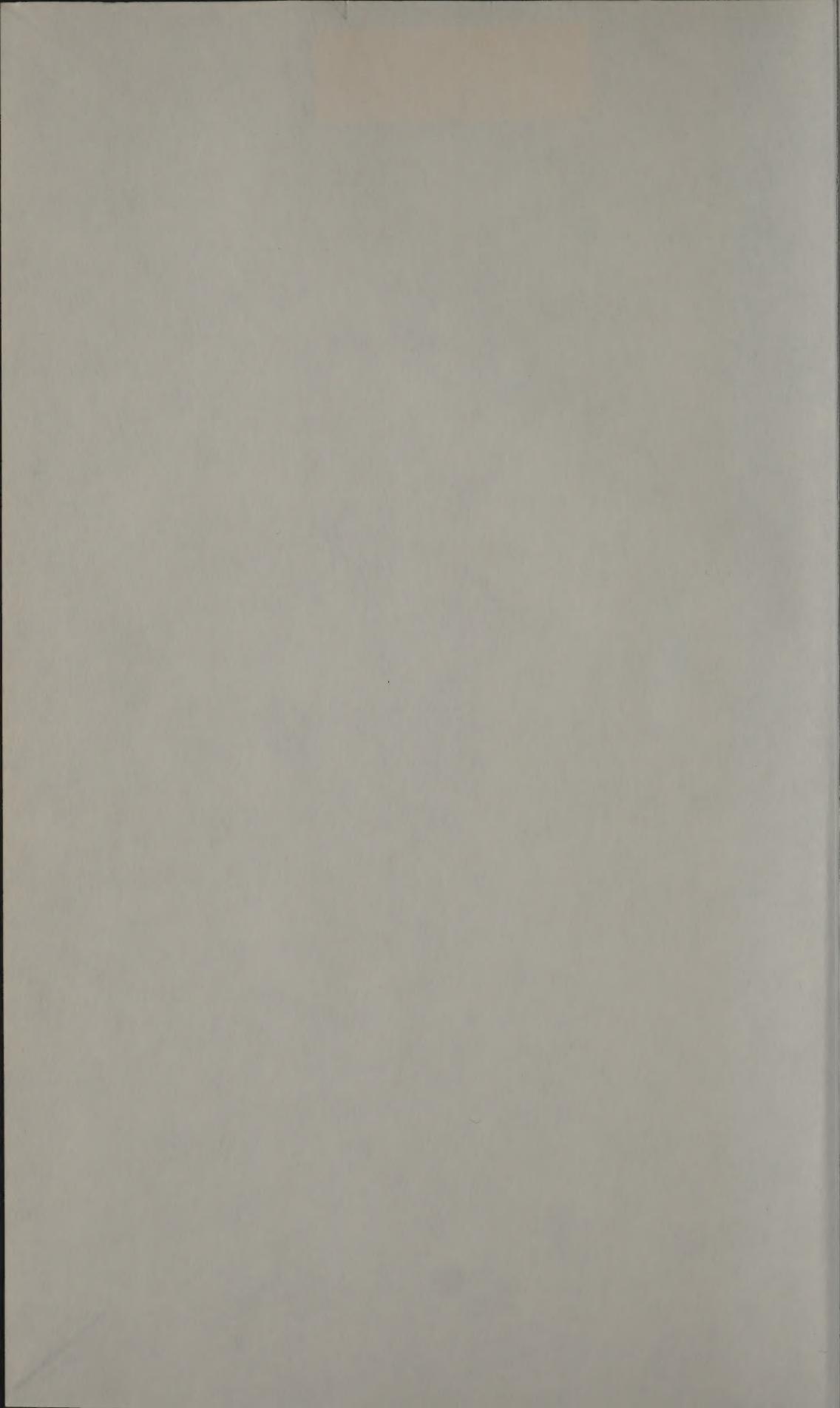
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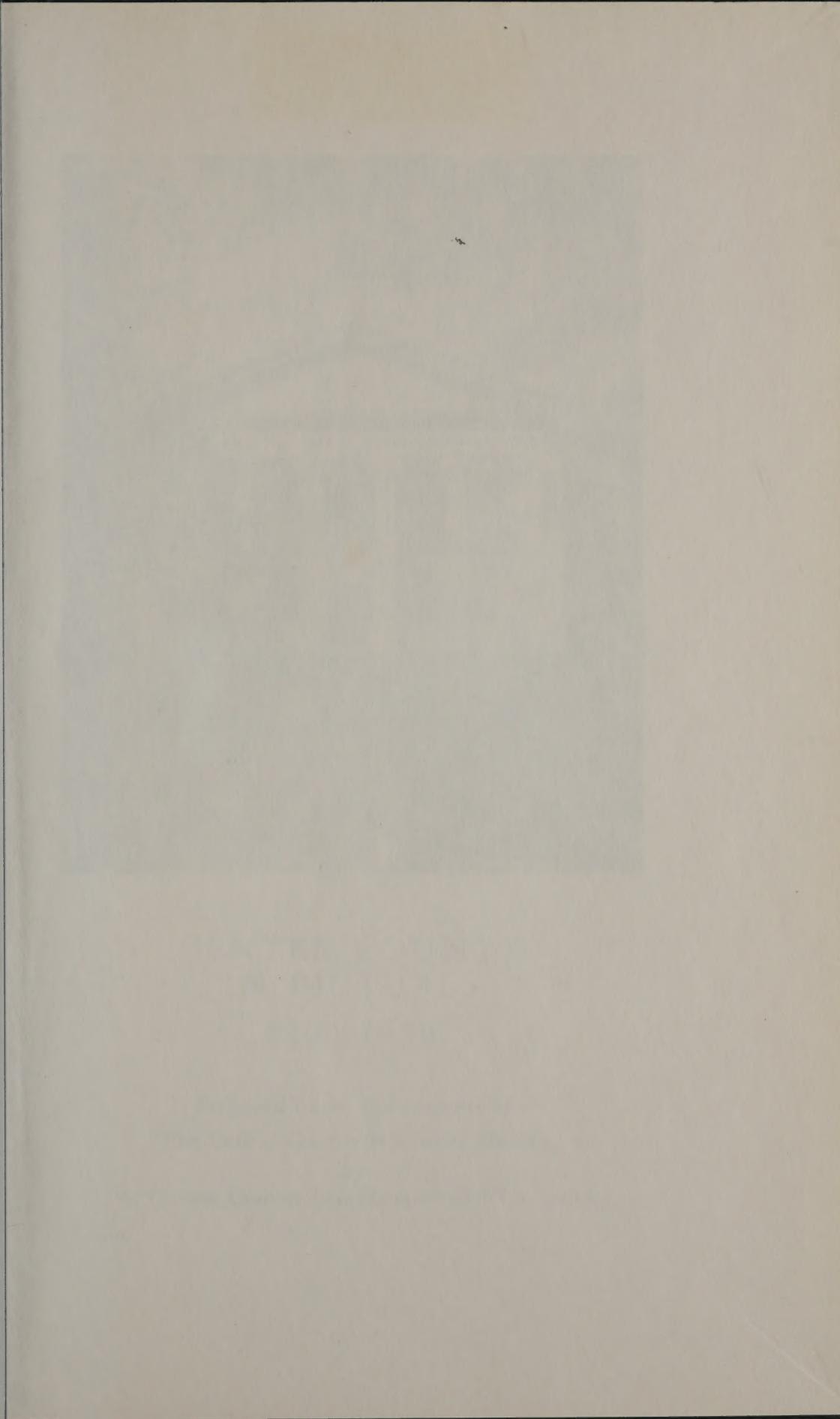
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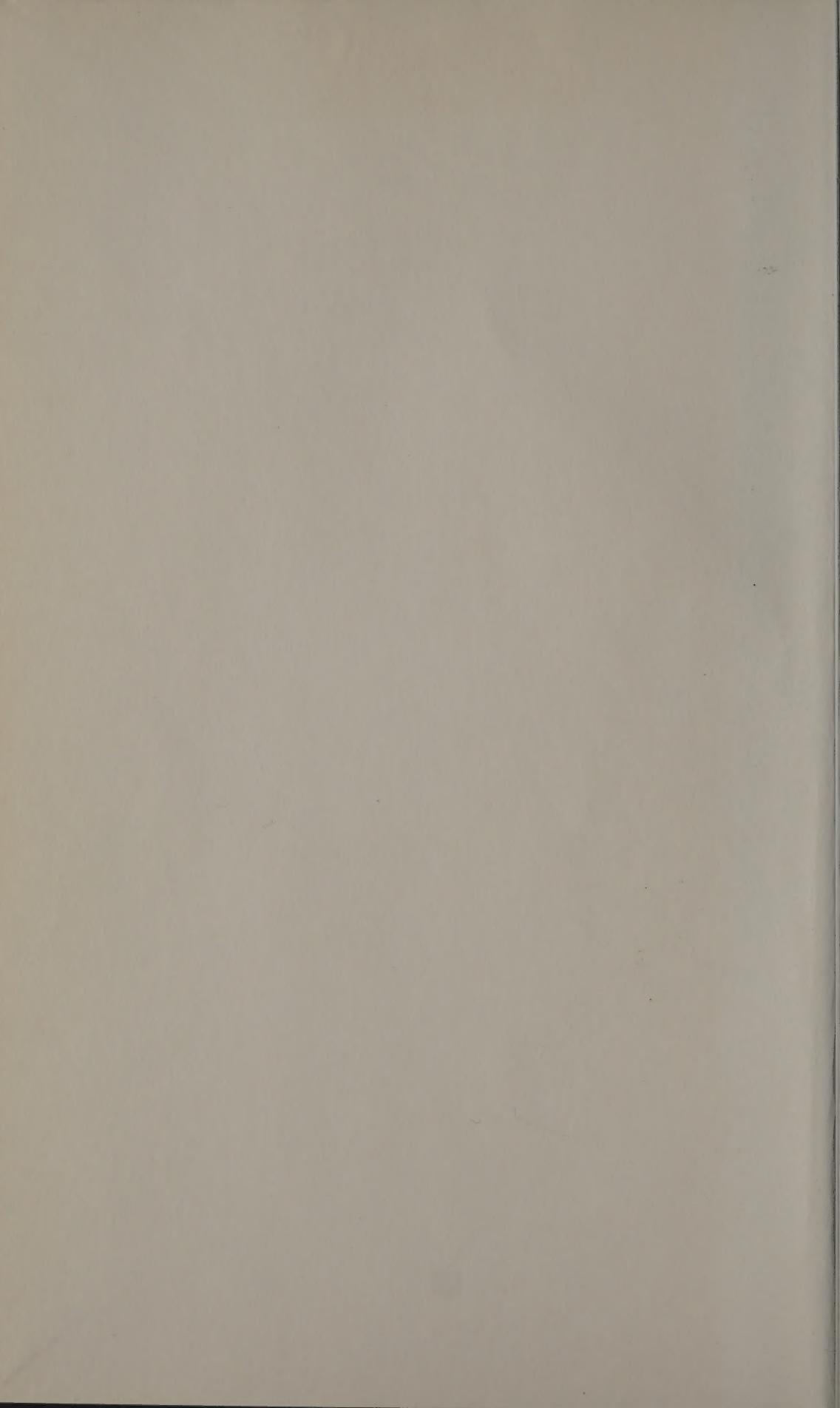
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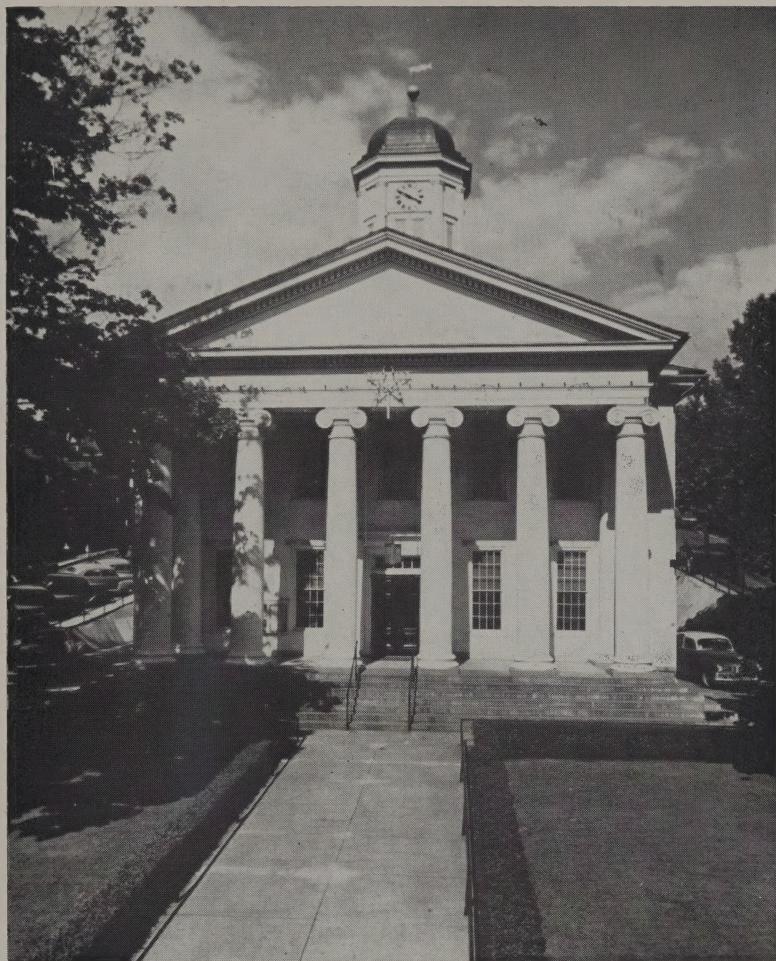
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CENTRE COUNTY IN PICTURES

1800-1950

Prepared under the auspices of
The Centre County Historical Society
by

The Centre County Sesqui-centennial Committee



CENTRE COUNTY Pa. IN PICTURES

1800-1950 28

*in honor of the
one hundred and fiftieth anniversary
of the founding of*

CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

February 13, 1800

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

*Prepared under the auspices of
The Centre County Historical Society*

by

The Centre County Sesqui-centennial Committee

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Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

1950

THE
SOCIETY OF
THE
ARTS
DESIGN
AND
MANUFACTURE

1920906

FOREWORD

This book, prepared in honor of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Centre County, Pennsylvania, has a two-fold purpose: first, to call public attention to the existence in the County of many fascinating landmarks of the past; and second, to preserve for the future a pictorial record of important aspects of the life of Centre County today.

While the historical pictures do not tell the whole story of the County, they do trace, in a general way, the main elements of that story. Rigid selection had to be made. The Committee wished to emphasize those historical sites which, in 1950, remain well-preserved, and to depict places which, for the most part, lie close to the main travelled roads. In order to suggest a comparison between the past and the present, the Committee included pictures of typical institutions and enterprises which now flourish in the County.

The illustrations are presented in geographical sequence, starting in the western part of the County and proceeding eastward. Descriptions of each place, keyed by Route numbers to the road map at the end of the volume, will be of assistance in fixing each location.

The Committee hopes that Centre Countians will carry a copy of this book with them when they drive about the area. They will learn the story of many familiar scenes which they may not before have recognized as spots of special interest and importance. Every citizen of the County ought to know, and all will find pleasure in discovering the many points of human interest and historic appeal which dot our local roadsides.

The Sesqui-centennial Committee wishes to express its thanks to the many Centre Countians who have contributed to the preparation of this volume, particularly to the County Commissioners whose initiative started the project, and to the Editor who contributed so generously of his time to collect and compile the material presented in the book. For historical assistance, the Committee is indebted especially to J. Thomas Mitchell, Esq., of Bellefonte. Many persons and organizations co-operated in procuring or taking the photographs here reproduced. Their work is acknowledged individually under each picture, with the exception of the cover illustration, which was taken by Guyer Kelley, of Bellefonte.

*The Centre County
Sesqui-centennial Committee*





(Gefehr, Philipsburg)

The "Big House," later known as Moshannon Hall and Halehurst, built in 1813 for Hardman Philips, founder of Philipsburg. Located at east end of Philipsburg, on south side of U. S. Route 322.

Grave of Hardman Philips, founder of Philipsburg, in cemetery of Old Union Church, Philipsburg. Note the intricate iron railing—a fine example of the craftsmanship of an earlier age.

(Gefehr, Philipsburg)





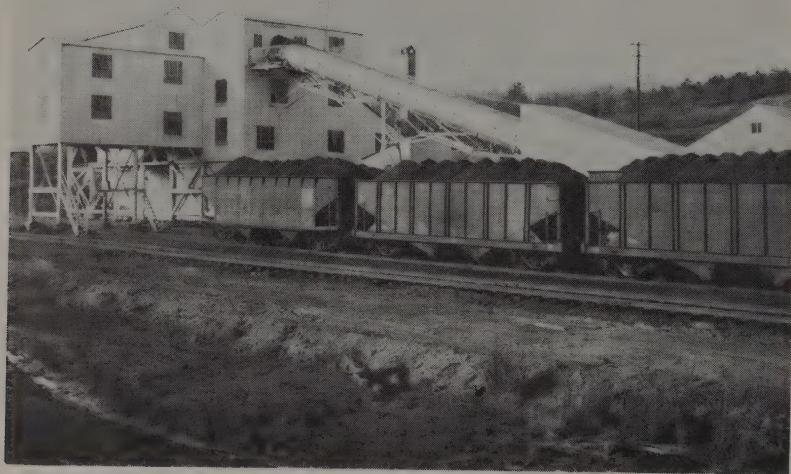
(Gefehr, Philipsburg)

Old Union Church, familiarly known as "old mud Church," built in 1820 by inhabitants of Philipsburg as a school and place of worship. Located in east end of Philipsburg, on north side of U. S. Route 322.



(Gefehr, Philipsburg)

Monument marking the site of the first wood-screw factory in the United States, established at Philipsburg in 1821. Site is at western edge of town, along U. S. Route 322. Note old iron forge hammer.



(Gefehr, Philipsburg)

A typical modern coal cleaning and sizing plant in the western part of Centre County—symbol of the local bituminous coal industry which began in this region in 1819.

Aerial view of Clarence, showing the J. H. France Refractories Company (with the bee-hive type ovens), and in the foreground, the Hall Brothers Hosiery Mill—a new County industry.

(Guyer Kelley, Bellefonte)





(Gefehr, Philipsburg)

Black Moshannon Park, a mountain-top public recreation area on Pa. Route 504, midway between Philipsburg and Unionville. This road, in early days, was known as the Rattlesnake Pike. The Black Moshannon region was earlier a lumbering area.

Philipsburg Airport, built in 1939 by the Federal government under the General State Authority. Note Moshannon Lake in the distance. Located 1 mile west of Black Moshannon Park, on Pa. Route 504, between Unionville and Philipsburg.

(Roy Schreffler, Philipsburg)





(Sherm Lutz, State College)

Aerial view of the quarry of the silica brick plant at Port Matilda, one of a number of Centre County refractories. Travelers looking to the south from U. S. Route 322 near Port Matilda will see this operation high above the valley floor.

Aerial view of Scotia iron ore pits. Ore from this region supplied several of the earliest furnaces, and was later developed by Andrew Carnegie. Site of the town of Scotia. Located in the "Barrens," west of U. S. Route 322, about 5 miles northwest of State College.

(Sherm Lutz, State College)





(Sherm Lutz, State College)

Aerial view of Gatesburg iron ore bank, which supplied Pennsylvania Furnace from 1810 until the latter part of the 19th century. Located about 5 miles northwest of Pine Grove Mills, on north side of Pa. Route 45. Deposits extended from this point north to Gatesburg.

State College Air Depot, established in 1930. Located originally at the "old Indian tree" at Boalsburg, the airport is now situated 1 mile southwest of State College on Pa. Routes 45 and 545. First scheduled commercial air transport in County started here on June 20, 1949.

(Sherm Lutz, State College)





(Pennsylvania State College)

Old Main, the present administration building of the Pennsylvania State College, which stands on the site of the original Farmers' High School building of 1855. State College.



(Penn State Collection)

The "Little Yellow House," oldest building on the campus of the Pennsylvania State College, and one of the oldest unaltered structures in the town. It was originally the home of W. G. Waring, first farm superintendent. Built in 1855 and 1856. Located 100 yards east of the Main Library, State College.

Farming in Centre County has undergone important changes. One of the newer developments is contour farming, which this aerial photograph shows in sharp contrast to the traditional square fields and straight rows.

(Sherm Lutz, State College)





(Penn State Collection)

Centre Furnace Mansion, now known as "The Evergreens," was built about 1792 by Col. John Patton who entertained Talleyrand at this spot a few years later. Located 1 mile northeast of State College on north side of Pa. Route 45. Nearby is Centre Furnace stack.

Centre Furnace stack, relic of the first charcoal iron enterprise in the County, inaugurated by Cols. John Patton and Samuel Miles, 1792-1809. Present stack was used 1825-1858. About 1 mile northeast of State College on Pa. Route 45.

(P. S. Klein, State College)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Home built by Gen. John Irvin in about 1799. Located in Linden Hall.

College Township School, typical of the many public schools of Centre County which have, since 1900, replaced the former private academies.

(Walter Weaver, Lemont)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Cemetery of the Lutheran Church at Boalsburg. Here, in 1864, ladies of the congregation began the custom of Memorial Day which Congress, in 1868, made a national observance. Located in Boalsburg, opposite 28th Division Shrine, along U. S. Route 322.

Twenty-eighth Division Memorial Shrine in honor of Pennsylvanians who gave their lives in World War I and World War II. Founded by Col. Theodore Boal in 1917, and made a state memorial in 1932. Located at northwest end of Boalsburg, along U. S. Route 322.

(Penn State Camera Shop)





(S. R. Rishel, Boalsburg)

Boalsburg post-office, occupying one of the earliest buildings in the town, erected in 1819. Located next to the Boalsburg Tavern, just east of the town "diamond."



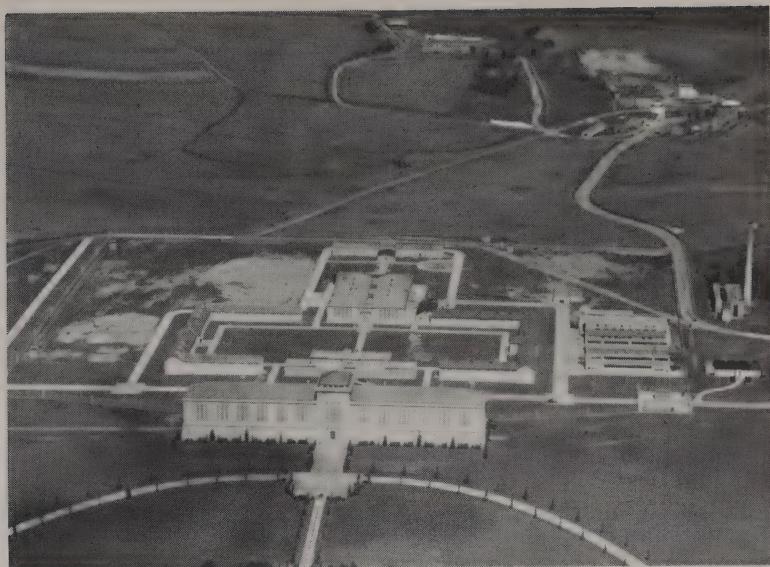
(Penn State Camera Shop)

Boal mansion, longtime residence of one of the first families to settle at Springfield, renamed Boalsburg in 1820. Located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of U. S. Route 322, nearly opposite 28th Division Shrine.

Boalsburg Tavern, erected in 1819, and operated since then as a public house. In Boalsburg, at the town "diamond."

(Harry Duffy, Boalsburg)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Rockview Branch of the Western State Penitentiary, founded in 1912. This minimum security prison, representing advanced and humanitarian ideas in penology, includes some 7000 acres of surrounding land. Located 2 miles west of Pleasant Gap, on Pa. Route 45.

Whiterock Quarries, at Pleasant Gap, the largest limestone quarry in the County.

(Jack Frey, Bellefonte)





(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)

McBride's Gap, as seen from Rockview, looking south. From the Indian trail leading to the top of this gap Captain James Potter first saw Penn's Valley, in 1763. Potter was the first white man to explore this region with the serious intention of settling. Gap may be seen south of Rockview from Pa. Route 45 or Pa. Route 545.

View of Penn's Valley, showing, in 1950, the scene upon which Captain Potter first looked in 1763. This picture was taken from the top of Pleasant Gap, a few miles northeast of McBride's Gap. Pa. Route 53, between Pleasant Gap and Centre Hall.

(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Monument at intersection of Pa. Routes 45 and 53, at Old Fort, marking approximate site of stockade erected by General James Potter during the American Revolutionary War.

Former residence of descendants of Gen. James Potter, one of the first settlers of Centre County region, and founder of Potter's Mills. Located on south side of Route 322 at Potter's Mills.

(Penn State Camera Shop)





(Mrs. S. C. Grove, Centre Hall)

Scene at Grange Fair, Centre Hall, one of the oldest and largest public occasions annually observed in the County.

Tents at Grange Fair, Centre Hall. One of the most unique features of this fair is that visitors come with families and furniture to camp for a week at the fair grounds.

(Mrs. S. C. Grove, Centre Hall)





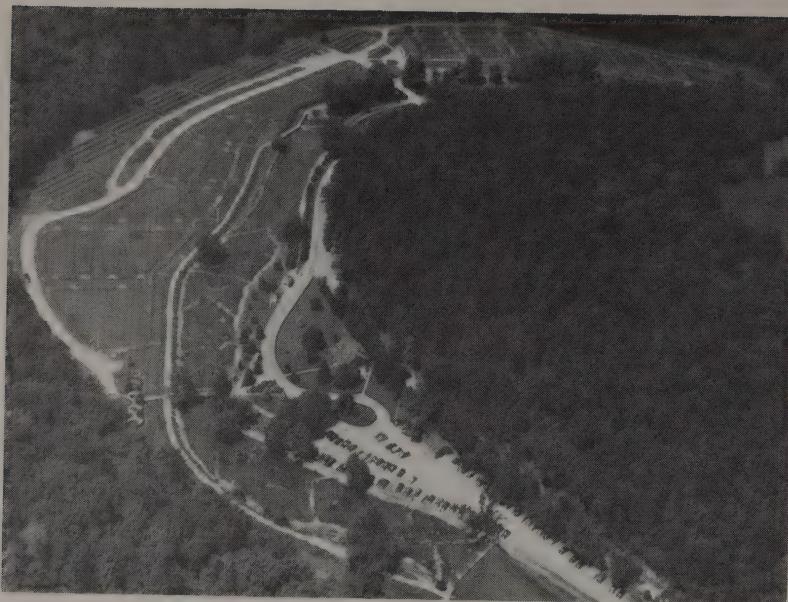
(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)

Centre Hall Hotel, built in 1847, marked the beginning of the development of a community at this site. It was one of the earliest commercial ventures in the area.

Mansion house of Logan Furnace, built by John Dunlop in 1798. Furnace stack was on hillside at right. Located 1½ miles north of Pleasant Gap, on Pa. Route 53.

(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)





(Sherm Lutz, State College)

Part of the hatcheries of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, seen from the air. The hatchery, started in 1902, adjoins Fisherman's Paradise, along Spring Creek. Located a few miles south of Bellefonte, to the west of Pa. Route 45.

Fisherman's Paradise, established by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission in 1934—one of the most widely known attractions of Centre County. Located along Spring Creek, a few miles south of Bellefonte, to the west of Pa. Route 45.

(Pleasant Gap Hatcheries)





(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)

The Rock, a huge crag overhanging Spring Creek, 2 miles northeast of Houserville, which suggested the name for Philip Benner's famous "Rock Forge," established in 1794. The Benner mansion, now a ruin, faced the "Rock" from the hillside opposite, while the forge was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile downstream. Fishermen know this spot well.

The Linn home, N. Allegheny Street, Bellefonte. This fine old colonial-type structure, built about 1807, has provided a home for many distinguished Pennsylvanians—Judge Jonathan Walker, Judge Charles Huston, Governor James A. Beaver, and historian John Blair Linn.

(Miss Mary Linn, Bellefonte)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Foreman's House of Bellefonte Forge, built by John Dunlop in 1795. Later, part of the Valentines and Thomas iron firm. The only building of this early enterprise still remaining. Located opposite the Titan Metal Manufacturing Company, southwest of Bellefonte on Pa. Route 53.

James Harris Mansion, built by one of the founders of Bellefonte in 1794-1795. Located across Spring Creek, almost opposite the Centre County Hospital.

(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)





(Titan, Bellefonte)

Titan Metal Manufacturing Company plant, located along Logan Branch of Spring Creek, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Bellefonte. This site was occupied, 150 years ago, by Bellefonte Forge, and later by Valentines and Thomas iron works.



(Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce)

The spring at Bellefonte, from which the county seat derives its name. Prince Talleyrand, on his visit to this region in the winter of 1794-1795 first suggested the name "Bellefonte."

Quaker meeting house, erected over a century ago by the firm of Valentines and Thomas. In this early picture, Jesse Gillespie, the caretaker, sits under the trees wearing his stovepipe hat. Located at south end of Bellefonte Academy building, along Stony Batter, Bellefonte.

(Rebecca Pugh Lyon)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Summerville residence at corner of Allegheny and Linn Streets, Bellefonte. Notable for its architecture, typical of the Civil War period, and particularly for the delicate iron fence—a triumph of the iron-master's art.

Brockenhof residence, at northeast corner of West Bishop and Spring Streets, Bellefonte. A fine example of early American architecture, in brick. Note the doorway, and the intricate cast-iron fence at the right.

(Penn State Camera Shop)





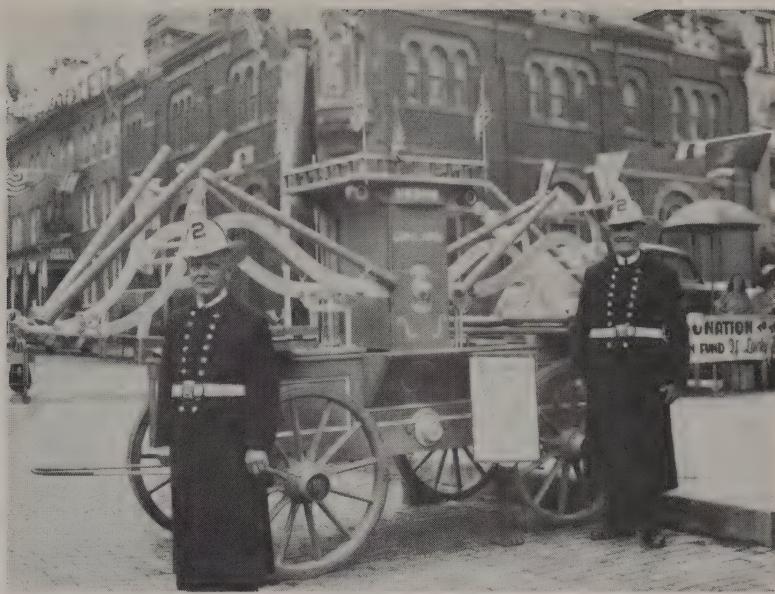
(Centre County Library)

Originally the home of William W. Potter, later of E. C. Humes, and now the quarters of the Centre County Library and the Centre County Historical Society. Built about 1820. Located at northwest corner of Allegheny and Howard Streets, Bellefonte.

Bellefonte Academy Building, as it appeared at the beginning of World War I, 1917. This fine old school, now closed, trained many eminent Pennsylvanians for their life's work. The Academy Building is now used as an apartment house.

(John Hughes, Bellefonte)





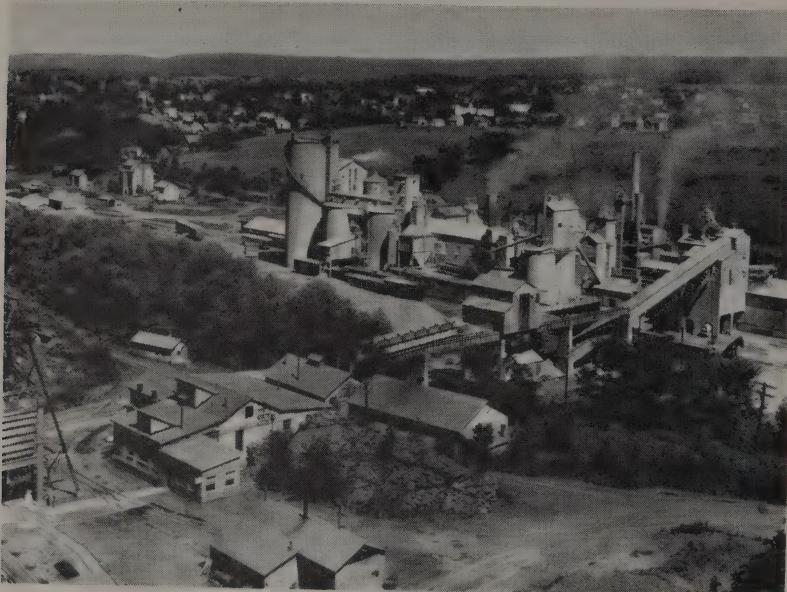
(Undine Fire Company, Bellefonte)

Fireman's Parade at Bellefonte, a characteristic and traditional summer festival in this region. The volunteer Fire Company carnivals are to central Pennsylvania what the rodeo is to Wyoming and Montana, and the Mardi Gras to the deep South.

Aerial view of Bellefonte, the County Seat, looking from the Penn Belle Hotel, in the foreground, up High Street to the Court House.

(Guyer Kelley, Bellefonte)





(Warner Company, Bellefonte)

Limestone mine and plant of the Warner Company, in the northwest part of Bellefonte. The "Bellefonte Ledge" is a geologic formation of international reputation.

Sutton Engineering Company, internationally known manufacturers of rolling mill machinery for ferrous and non-ferrous metals, specializing in straightening equipment. Located in Bellefonte.

(Sutton, Bellefonte)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Residence formerly occupied by Daniel F. Hastings, Governor of Pennsylvania, 1895-1899. Located N. Allegheny Street, Bellefonte.

Canal remains. Part of the Bald Eagle Extension of the Pennsylvania Canal, built by the Commonwealth during the 1830's and 1840's. The Bald Eagle branch connected Bellefonte and Milesburg with Harrisburg and Baltimore. Remains lie 50 yards west of Pa. Route 53, at Harmony Forge between Bellefonte and Milesburg.

(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)





(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)

Harmony Forge mansion house, built about 1795 for Samuel Miles who, with Dunlop and Patton, created this iron works. Later the site of the McCoy and Linn iron firm. Located along Spring Creek in the gap between Milesburg and Bellefonte, about 100 yards west of Pa. Route 53.

Home built in 1792 by Joseph Green, carpenter and constructor of nearby Harmony Forge. Located at south end of Milesburg, along east side of Pa. Route 53.

(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)





(National Gypsum Co.)

Part of National Gypsum Company's limestone mine and plant. Centre County's high grade limestone fills many agricultural, industrial, and chemical needs of the nation. Located at Valley View, along Pa. Route 550 between Bellefonte and Waddle.

Switchback on the Snow Shoe extension, Bald Eagle branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. This is one of the most unusual engineering projects of this kind in the East. Located three miles west of Pa. Route 53, near Gum Stump.

(Guyer Kelley, Bellefonte)





(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)

Curtin mansion, built by Roland Curtin, founder of Eagle Furnace about 1810, and continuously occupied by the Curtin family. Located at Curtin, 1 mile south of U. S. Route 220, between Milesburg and Howard.

Stack of Eagle Furnace, erected by Roland Curtin in 1810. This was the first iron operation in Bald Eagle Valley. Successive generations of Curtins kept the furnace in blast until 1921. Located at Curtin, 1 mile south of U. S. Route 220, between Milesburg and Howard.

(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)



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(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)

Monument marking site of East Penn's Valley Presbyterian Church, located $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Pa. Route 45 at Penn Hall. Here, in 1785, the first Presbyterian church in Penn's Valley was erected, and, in 1795, the Presbytery of Huntingdon formed.



(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)

Remains of an old turnpike road which ran past the East Penn's Valley Presbyterian Church. Located opposite the marker at the church site, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Penn Hall, off Pa. Route 45.

Fort Watson, known as "Middle Fort." One of the three Revolutionary War forts in the County. Remains lie on known site of this fort, and are believed to be part of the original structure. Located on Kate Herr farm, 2 miles east of Penn Hall on Pa. Route 45, to the north of the road.

(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)





(Penn State Camera Shop)

Portion of Nigh and Taylor banks, two ore pits which, until the opening of the Lake Superior mines, produced some of the best iron ore in America. Located about 3 miles east of Bellefonte, on north side of Pa. Route 550. Diggings extended north to Jacksonville road.

Early home of William F. Packer, Governor of Pennsylvania, 1857-1860. Located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Howard.

(John Dubbs, Bellefonte)





(Centre Daily Times, State College)

The Frederick Henney house, Aaronsburg, was built in 1789. It is one of the best examples of early construction of native stone in the area. Note the original date-stone in the inset: "F 1789 H."

The Aaronsburg Story. On Sunday, October 23, 1949, 30,000 persons gathered to witness the greatest historical spectacle ever presented in the County. Held on ground donated by a Jew, Aaron Levy, for the building of a Christian church, the Aaronsburg pageant was an eloquent plea for interfaith understanding and co-operation.

(Ward Gramley, Millheim)





(Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce)

Penn's Cave, a limestone cavern through which Penn's Creek flows. The stream breaks from a subsurface channel at the cave's mouth. Located about 5 miles east of Centre Hall, on Route 95.

Portion of log house along Penn's Creek, a few miles west of Coburn. This type of structure was in general use a century ago. Picture shows interesting detail of corner construction.

(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)





(Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce)

On the road to Penn's View, from Coburn. Looking north, one sees Coburn, and in the foreground, Penn's Creek. This area abounds in scenic lookout points.

"Lower Fort," the most easterly of the Revolutionary War Forts, at Woodward Narrows. Remains of fort no longer exist, but this picture shows the view, looking south from the site. Located on the Long farm, 3 miles south of Fiedler, on Pa. Route 45.

(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)





(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)

One of the Coburn Tunnels—part of the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad, built in the 1870's, the first rail line into Penn's Valley. Located 1½ miles south of the Forks, below Coburn.

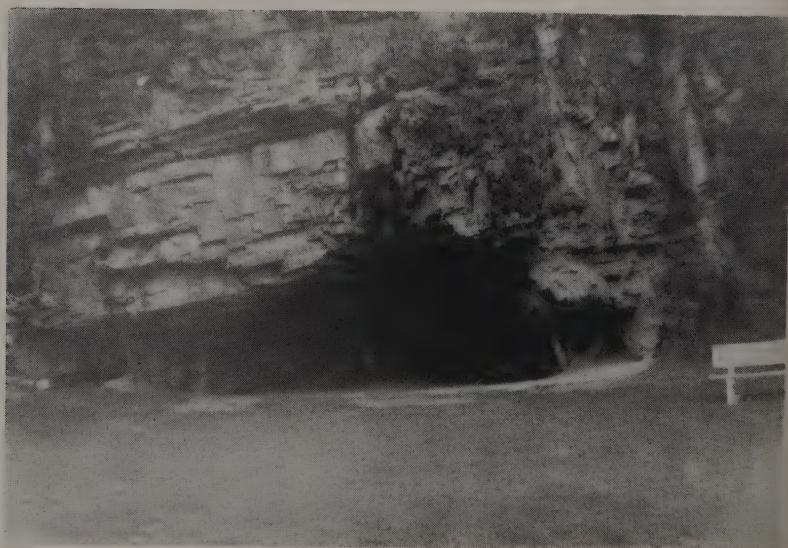


(Woodward Inn)

Woodward Inn, the oldest structure in Woodward, built in 1814 by John Motz. It was known in early days as the Stagecoach Inn, and has been operated continuously as a hostelry—for the last three quarters of a century by the Hosterman family. Located on Pa. Route 45, at Woodward.

Entrance to Woodward Cave, one of the largest caverns in the state. Located on Legislative Route #14032, halfway between Woodward and Coburn.

(Gerald Robison, Bellefonte)



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